

Weekly Disease Surveillance Report

2023 Reporting Week 11: March 12 — March 18



This weekly report is produced by the DOH-Okaloosa Epidemiology Section to provide situational awareness to community partners. Data is subject to change as additional information is gathered.

COVID-19 Trends

Once again, COVID-19 levels decreased for Okaloosa during Week 11, and the community level remains low. **Recommended actions based on current COVID-19 Community Level (Low):** Stay [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines. [Get tested](#) if you have symptoms. People may choose to wear a mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.

On December 20, 2022, the CDC released a health alert network (HAN) for [Important Updates on COVID-19 Therapeutics for Treatment and Prevention](#) which provides information on COVID-19 Omicron sublineages with reduced susceptibility to specific monoclonal antibody treatments.

ILI Trends

Influenza-like illness (ILI) in Okaloosa slightly increased for Week 11, and is above the normal average for this period (current level: 3.00%; normal average: 2.0%). Please stay vigilant, review the weekly [Florida FLU REVIEW](#) for statewide information, and continue to promote vaccination.

On December 14, 2022, the CDC released a HAN for [Interim Guidance for Clinicians to Prioritize Antiviral Treatment of Influenza in the Setting of Reduced Oseltamivir](#) (e.g., Tamiflu). To date, the FDA and the Florida Department of Health have not received notification of shortages. General information on availability of antiviral medications can be found at [Influenza 2022-2034 \(fda.gov\)](#).

Contact Us:

**Florida Department of Health
in Okaloosa County**

Epidemiology Section

**24/7 Disease Reporting:
850-833-9065**

Confidential Fax:

850-833-7577

okaloosaepi@flhealth.gov

COVID-19 Snapshot

Week 11 Community Level

COVID-19 Community Level	New Hospital Admissions per 100K Population (Past 7 Days)	% Staffed Beds with COVID-19 Patients (Past 7 Days)
LOW	3.7	0.9%

PREVIOUS WEEK COMMUNITY LEVEL: LOW

New COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 people in the past 7 days	Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

Week 11 Community Transmission Level

COVID-19 Community Risk Level	New Cases per 100K Population per Week	% Positivity per Week
SUBSTANTIAL	21.8	8.0%

PREVIOUS WEEK RISK LEVEL: SUBSTANTIAL

Low	<10	<5.0%
Moderate	10-49	5.0 - 7.9%
Substantial	50-99	8.0 - 9.9%
High	>100	>10.0%

Community Level and Community Risk/Transmission Level are the color of the higher risk level for each of the two indicators. Data Source : CDC [Community Indicators at the County Level](#)



COVID-19 in Okaloosa County

Week 11: March 12 - March 18

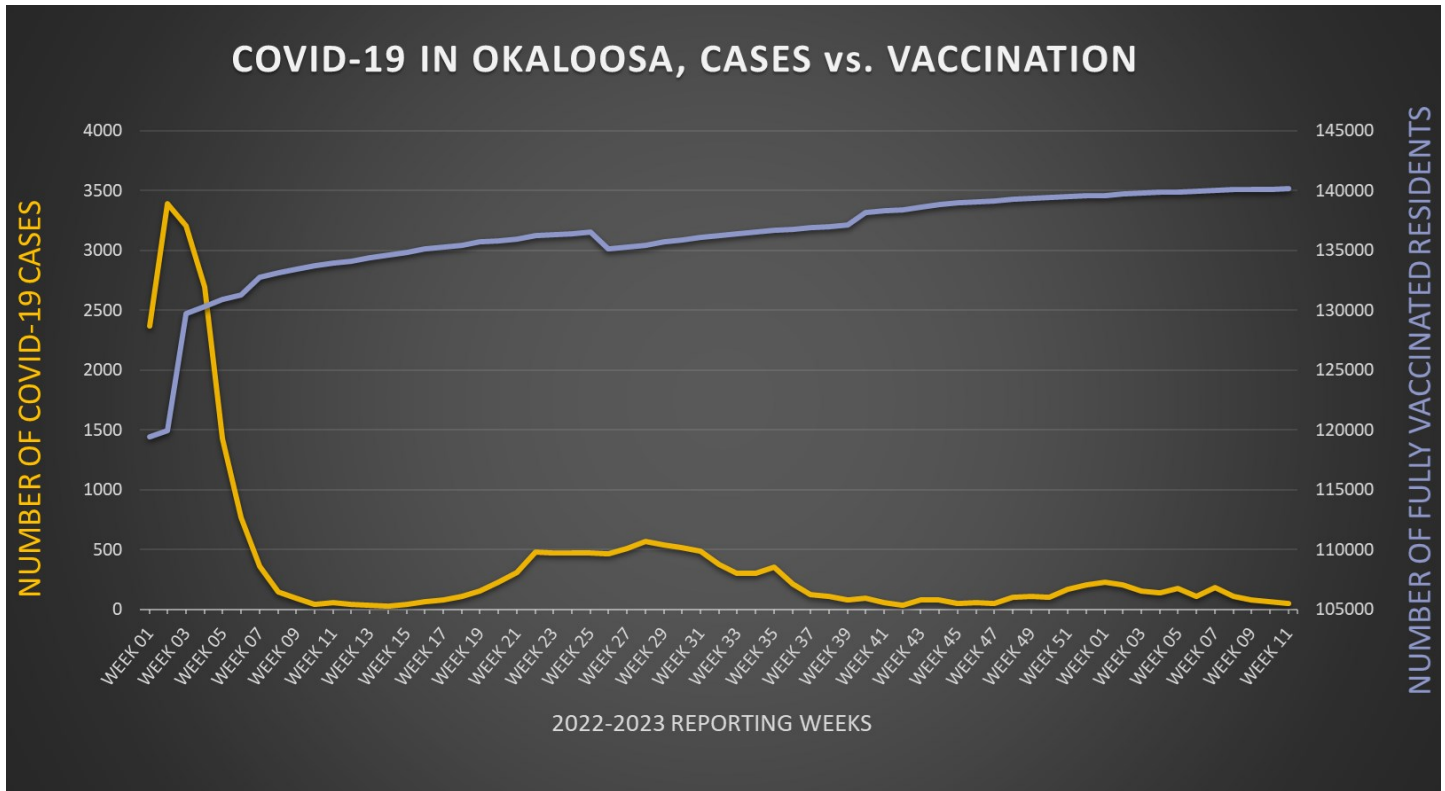


Figure 1: Cumulative number of fully vaccinated Okaloosa residents as compared to COVID-19 cases per week. Data reported through previous Sunday.
Data Source: Merlin & CDC [COVID Data Tracker](#)

Week 11 Review		Difference from Wk10
Resident Case Count	46	-17
Resident Case Count per 100K Population	21.8	-8.1
Average Resident Cases per Day	6.6	-2.4
Percent Positivity	8.0%	-0.1

Data Source: Merlin Database

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) provides the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with county COVID-19 data, including deaths.

Please visit the [COVID-19 Community Profile Report](#) webpage to obtain death data by downloading the most recent excel file and locating Okaloosa on the 'Counties' tab.

For questions related to COVID-19 death data, please contact the FDOH Office of Communications at 850-245-4111 or NewsMedia@flhealth.gov.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS		
Fully-Vaccinated Groups	OKALOOSA	US
% of Population ≥ 5 Years of Age	71.1%	73.4%
% of Population ≥ 12 Years of Age	76.9%	77.5%
% of Population ≥ 18 Years of Age	79.7%	79.0%
% of Population ≥ 65 Years of Age	95.0%	94.3%

Data reported through previous Sunday. Data Source: CDC [COVID Data Tracker](#)



Influenza-Like Illness

Week 11: March 12 - March 18

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) is defined as fever greater than or equal to 100°F AND cough and/or sore throat in the absence of another known cause.

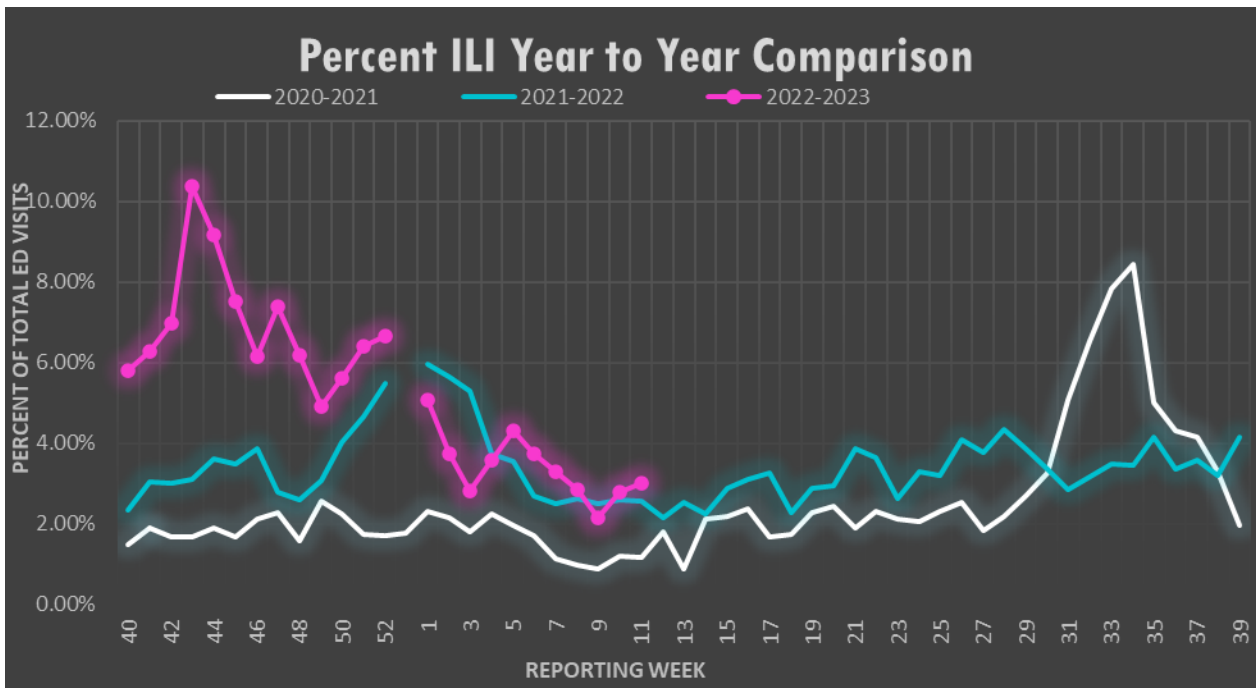


Figure 2: Annual comparison of the percent of all hospital ED visits due to ILI for Okaloosa county for the 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 influenza seasons by week. Data source: ESSENCE

ANALYSIS: During Week 11, flu reporting partners and ESSENCE (a syndromic surveillance system) reported a plateau in ILI activity for Okaloosa County. The percentage of ILI ED visits in Okaloosa County increased from 2.80% during Week 10 to 3.00% during Week 11. Flu partners reported 5 positive rapid flu tests this week (3 Influenza A and 2 Influenza B). Over the past three weeks, 13 influenza specimens submitted to the state lab were positive (8 Influenza A H3 and 5 Influenza A H1N1). There were no ILI admissions or deaths reported by flu partners this week. No outbreaks have been reported in the past 3 weeks. The percentage of total ILI ED visits for Week 11 is higher than that of Week 11 last year.

Note: Other respiratory syndromes can be represented by increased ILI case numbers. Data Source: ESSENCE

% ILI by Age Group Week 11, 2023

Age Range	ILI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total ILI Visits
0-4	21	186	11.29%
5-19	29	350	8.29%
20-34	7	548	1.28%
35-54	9	541	1.66%
55-74	6	528	1.14%
75+	2	315	0.63%

Data Source: ESSENCE

% of Total ILI Visits by Facility Week 11, 2023

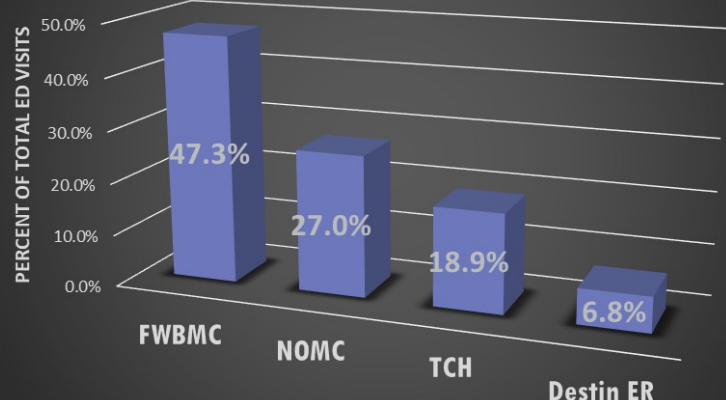


Figure 3: Hospital ED visits meeting ILI criteria stratified by facility. Percentages calculated based on total number of ILI ED visits. (n=74). Data source: ESSENCE



Syndromic Surveillance

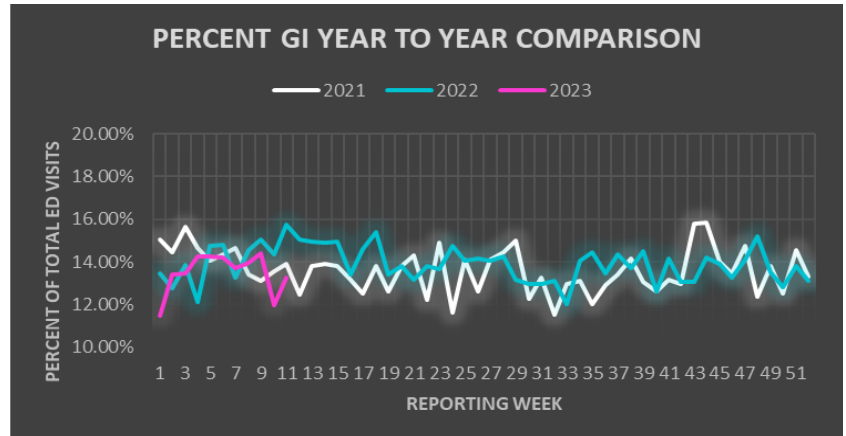
Week 11: March 12 - March 18

Gastro-intestinal Illness (GI)

Figure 4:

Annual comparison for the percent of GI for all Okaloosa County hospital ED visits week to week for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Data Source: ESSENCE

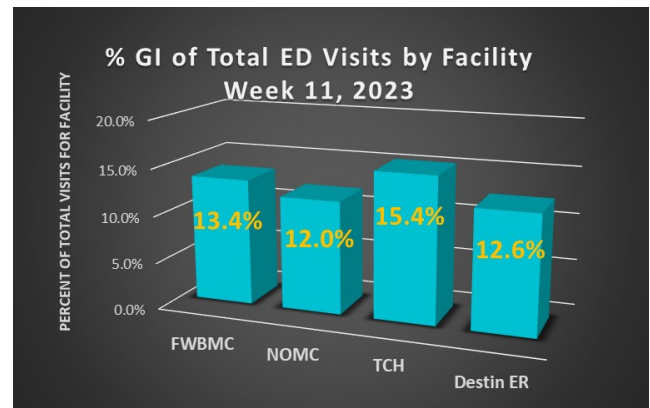


% GI by Age Group Week 11, 2023			
Age Range	GI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total GI Visits
0-4	19	186	10.22%
5-19	43	350	12.29%
20-34	98	548	17.88%
35-54	74	541	13.68%
55-74	60	528	11.36%
75+	33	315	10.48%

Figure 5:

Hospital emergency room visits due to GI illness stratified by facility.

Data source: ESSENCE

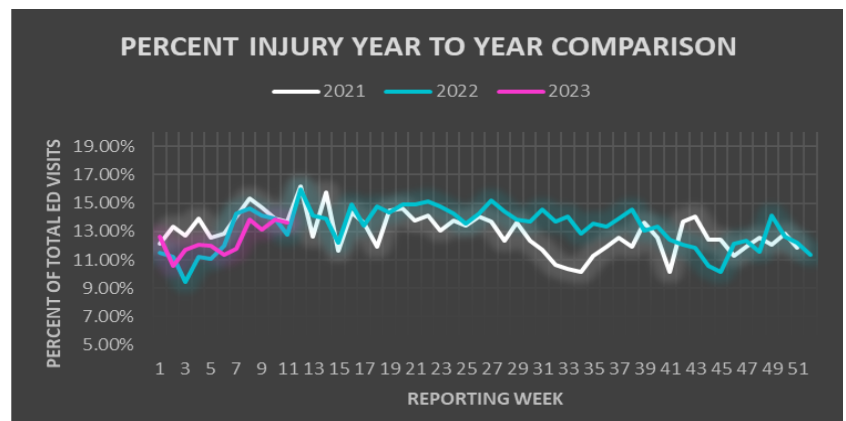


Injury

Figure 6:

Annual comparison for the percent of Injury for all Okaloosa County hospital ED visits week to week for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Data Source: ESSENCE

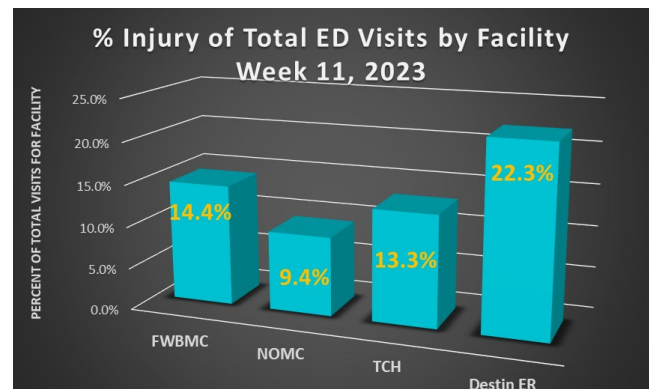


% Injury by Age Group Week 11, 2023			
Age Range	Injury Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total Injury Visits
0-4	22	186	11.83%
5-19	62	350	17.71%
20-34	66	548	12.04%
35-54	73	541	13.49%
55-74	54	528	10.23%
75+	59	315	18.73%

Figure 7:

Hospital emergency room visits due to Injury stratified by facility.

Data source: ESSENCE





Syndromic Surveillance

Week 11: March 12 - March 18

Total ED Visits by Syndrome

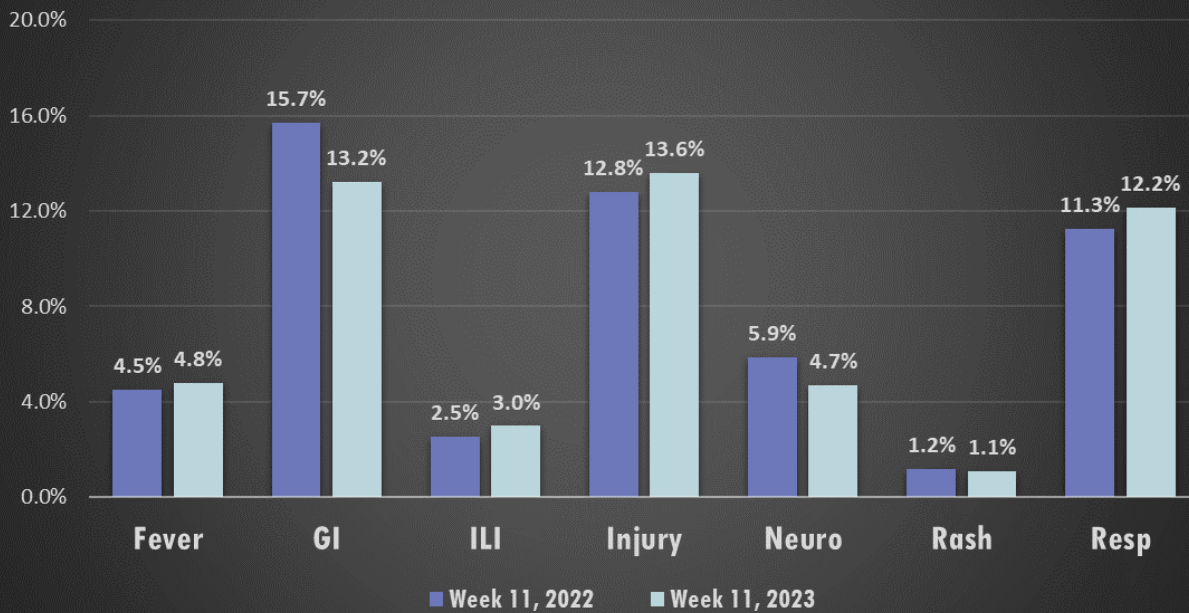
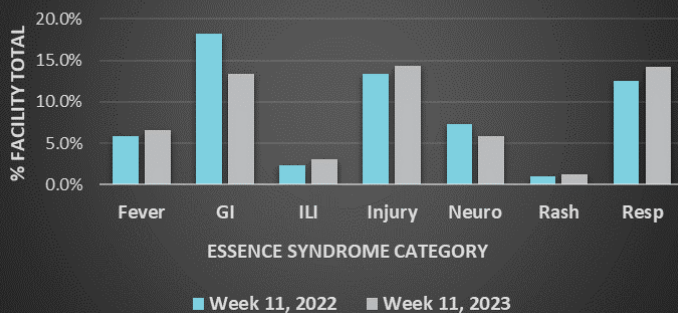


Figure 8: Hospital Emergency Department (ED) visits from 2023 Week 11 by select syndrome category. Percentages calculated based on total number of ED visits (n=2469). Some syndrome categories are not represented; therefore, represented percentages will not total 100%. Data source: ESSENCE

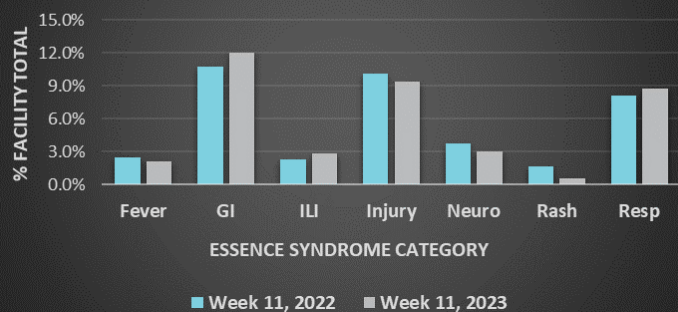
Fort Walton Beach Medical Center ED Presentations



Week 11- Fort Walton Beach Medical Center

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	31
5-19	RESP	33
20-34	GI	53
35-54	INJURY	41
55-74	RESP	31
75+	INJURY	26

North Okaloosa Medical Center ED Presentations



Week 11- North Okaloosa Medical Center

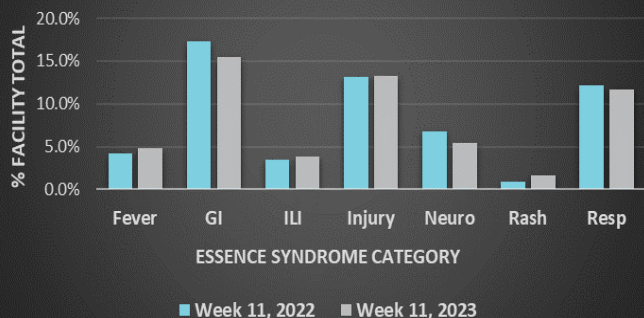
Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER, RESP, INJURY	6, 6, 6
5-19	INJURY	12
20-34	GI	21
35-54	GI	25
55-74	RESP	22
75+	INJURY	17



Syndromic Surveillance

Week 11: March 12 - March 18

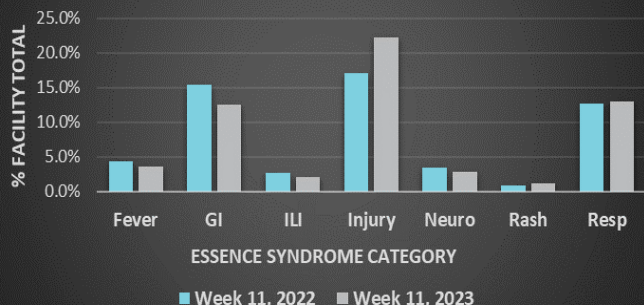
Twin Cities Hospital ED Presentations



Week 11- Twin Cities Hospital

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	ILI, RASH	3, 3
5-19	GI	10
20-34	GI	11
35-54	GI	12
55-74	GI	14
75+	INJURY	14

DestinER ED Presentations



Week 11- Destin ER

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	RESP	7
5-19	RESP	14
20-34	INJURY	16
35-54	INJURY	14
55-74	INJURY	10
75+	GI, INJURY, NEURO	2, 2, 2

Week 11—Okaloosa County

Age Group	Top Syndrome
0-4	RESP
5-19	RESP
20-34	GI
35-54	GI
55-74	RESP
75+	INJURY



Data Source: ESSENCE